



Salah Ad Din
Provincial Reconstruction Team
Health Section
Camp Speicher, Iraq
APO AE 09393

September 16, 2008

To Whom It May Concern:

The Salah ad Din Provincial Reconstruction Team's Health Section has been conducting an active review of the critical needs of the provincial health system. We concur with the assessment of the Director General of Health, Dr Hassan Zein Alabdeen, stating that a central laboratory in this province is desperately needed.

I have also spoken with healthcare professionals in the local area (Tikrit). The hospital CEOs are unanimous in advocating for a modern state-of-the-art laboratory. Currently, several tests have to be sent to Baghdad, which is not cost or time effective. They advocate for a private facility for two reasons: 1) swift clinical improvements can be made which are not reliant on a bureaucratic system of approvals, 2) a private facility will be fee-for-service based which will assure accountability and higher service standards and 3) enhance a collaborative forum for Salah ad Din hospital leadership to ensure best practices for all hospitals in the area.

Finally, I want to send my unrestricted endorsement for Dr Hatem Muhklis who has been a visionary leader of healthcare within this area. The training and development he and his colleagues already enabled will save thousands of lives. His relentless work in developing the emergency medical systems has earned him the moniker of Salah ad Din's Father of Emergency Medicine. I fully expect this project will follow his well established track record of success.

I can be reached for further questions at mark.donlin@us.army.mil or Asia Cell (0770) 669-4023.

Sincerely,

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LTC, CA, USAR
Health Section Leader